

Jennica Machado
Thurston County Economic Development Manager

Jennica Machado, Thurston County's Economic Development Manager is one of the many women working for Thurston County making history.

Jennica recently won the 2022 Emerging Professional in Economic Development Award through the Washington Economic Development Association. Jennica was awarded this honor for her work to get emergency funds into the hands of local business owners during the pandemic. Jennica's contributions to the Thurston County business community are immeasurable!

Jennica has been working for the Board of County Commissioners since 2019. Jennica has been involved in the Broadband Action Team, which is a partnership with the Nisqually Tribe, Thurston Economic Development Council, Thurston Regional Planning Council and Thurston Public Utility District. Jennica is also a member of the Racial Equity work group for Thurston County.

Prior to coming to the county, Jennica worked in non-profit management. In her current position, she can draw from her non-profit experiences and approach economic development from a community service lens. Jennica's desire is that Thurston County is a welcoming community for businesses to be successful in. When asked what gives her meaning in her current work, Jennica stated that she finds value in examining the root causes of social issues and effecting change. She went on to state, "when our economy is working for everyone, then our community thrives."

Jennica and her husband moved to Thurston County from the Bay area to attend graduate school at Evergreen State College. They are avid outdoorspeople and have a rescue dog who travels with them when they take back country trips during the summer. He also loves eating fresh vegetables, fruits and berries from the family garden! Jennica and her husband are avid gardeners and are trying to build up a large garden and food sustainability. This year, they plan to dedicate 3 days a week to eating only the food they grow! They also want to build up and get animals for their farm as well. Jennica also said that she is trying to grow giant pumpkins with a goal of growing a 200 pounder!

Thank you, Jennica, for making history in Thurston County!

